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CONGLETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT

*on the Health and Sanitary
Circumstances of the District
for the Year Ended 31st
. . December, 1955 . .*

Medical Officer of Health :
L. RICH, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :
P. KIRKHAM, M.S.I.A.

Engineer and Surveyor :
R. O. BIRTWISTLE, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.J.C.S.

To the Chairman and Members of the Congleton
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentleman,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Rural District for the year 1955.

There has been a small increase in the estimated population and this now stands at 13,510. The number of births recorded remains stationary. There has been a rise in the number of deaths.

The prevalence of infectious disease is not large for an area of this size; Measles accounting for most of the cases notified. I am pleased to report that there were no cases of Diphtheria notified. However, there were 8 cases of Food Poisoning and Dysentery and 2 cases of Poliomyelitis. There have been 7 cases of Tuberculosis and 2 deaths.

The number of houses built and managed by the Council is approaching the 1,000 mark. These are situated in many widely separated parts of a large Rural District. The majority of these houses are well furnished and well looked after by the tenants, and constitute a major contribution to the social well-being of our community. There are, however, some families, who, for a variety of reasons, fall behind with their rents, neglect the interior of their houses and do not attend to their gardens. Occasionally, it is found necessary to evict, causing hardship and break-up of families. It is open for consideration, whether the time has now arrived for the Council to give urgent consideration to the question of Housing Management, with particular reference to these families coming into new Council houses. It is felt that if supervision and assistance could be given in the early stages of their settling-in, many of those problems which the Council ultimately has to face by stern action could be prevented.

I am pleased to report that the Council's Cleansing Scheme has been most successful throughout the year. The opening of the new Depot at Arclid has gone a long way in making this so.

A survey of houses to determine those unfit for habitation was carried out mainly by the Sanitary Inspector and to some extent by myself, and a total of 639 houses were inspected. The Council agreed that some 231 houses in the Rural District were unfit for human habitation and not capable of being made fit at reasonable cost. It is satisfactory to note that the Council further decided to deal with these houses within the next five years, by demolition and replacement.

Much progress too, was made in dealing with the unsatisfactory house under the Improvement Grant Scheme and the total grant approved amounted to over £11,000.

Sewerage too, remains one of our big problems, and whilst the use of our Cess-pit emptier has, to some extent, mitigated the pollution that occurs in the ditches, every effort should be made to press on with the various drainage schemes in hand.

Once again, I wish to thank your Clerk and his staff for their help and guidance in enabling me to carry out my duties. I wish to record also, the excellent work being carried out by our Sanitary Inspector, Mr. P. Kirkham, M.S.I.A., and the assistance given me by him and your Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. R. O. Birtwistle, in the preparation of this report.

I beg to remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Throughout this report the figures in brackets are for the year 1954 and are for purposes of comparison.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated population 13510 (13440).

Births—

Live Births :	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	186 (17)	92 (108)	94 (71)
Illegitimate	4 (8)	— (3)	4 (5)
Still Births :			
Legitimate	1 (6)	— (2)	1 (4)
Illegitimate	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population, mid-1955	14.3		(14.1)
Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population	15.0		(15.2)
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	5.2		(31.1)
Still birth rate per 1,000 total population... ..	.07		(.44)
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total population	XXX		(XXX)
	2	.34	(.36)

Infantile Mortality—

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	3 (6)	2 (5)	1 (1)
Illegitimate	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births		15.7	(32)
Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales		24.9	(25.4)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		16.1	(33.5)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		0	(0)

Deaths—

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths all ages	305 (281)	135 (152)	170 (129)
Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population		21.2	(20.9)
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population		11.7	(11.3)

The following Table shows the deaths from all causes within the District during the year—

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—	2
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	1	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parisitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus... ..	6	5	1
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	3	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms... ..	17	7	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	2	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	22	5	17
Coronary disease, angina	25	17	8
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	1
Other heart diseases	22	13	9
Other circulatory diseases	10	5	5
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	5	5	—
Bronchitis	14	5	9
Other diseases of the respiratory system	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—

Congenital malformations	...	...	1	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	150	58	92
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	3	3	—
All other accidents	...	...	6	4	2
Suicide	...	...	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—	—
Total			305	135	170

Death from Puerperal and Maternal causes—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0	(0)
Other maternal causes	...	...	0	(0)

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births... 0 (0)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children

It is most satisfactory to note that for the fourth consecutive year, there has been no death of a mother in childbirth, and that the infant mortality rate is so low. In addition, the standard of infant and child care is very high.

These things do not happen fortuitously, but reflects creditably on the work done by the family and clinic doctors and nurses concerned. The work done at our Infant Welfare Clinics, and by the Health Visitors and Nurses visiting homes, is one of the major contributions to the healthy state in which we now find ourselves.

A new venture in our area, has been the opening of a Midwives Clinic at Sandbach, which caters for a certain number of mothers in the Rural District adjacent. Here, in addition to the clinic work carried out, lectures and demonstrations are given in mothercraft and relaxation exercises, by the Health Visitors and Nurses. We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of a part-time Physio-therapist for this work. The popularity of this venture was so great that it was found necessary to institute this clinic weekly. It is proposed in the near future to start a similar venture in Congleton, as soon as we can obtain the necessary staff.

The Divisional Health Committee was delegated the duty of the sale and distribution of Welfare Foods for Infants, Pregnant and Nursing Mothers. These foods consist of National Dried Milk, Vitamin Tablets, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice and to carry out this function, centres were established at Sandbach, Congleton, Mow Cop, Holmes Chapel, Scholar Green, Rode Heath and Goostrey. I am pleased to report that we have been able, satisfactorily to meet all the demands.

	New Cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
Welfare Centre									
Goostrey ...	32	—	—	234	122	195	24	212	8.8
	29	—	—	64	63	40	8	68	8.5
Holmes Chapel ...	46	—	—	339	123	153	23	171	7.4
	37	—	—	324	167	147	24	105	4.3
Mow Cop ...	9	—	—	93	71	42	24	187	7.7
	13	—	—	177	94	77	24	312	13
Rode Heath ...	17	—	—	205	58	101	24	201	8.3
	10	—	—	110	50	48	24	193	8
Scholar Green...	23	—	—	260	167	177	24	250	10.4
	19	—	—	280	127	116	24	273	11.3

Figures in Italics are for 1954

The names of the Health Visitors covering the Rural District are as follows—

Name	Address	Districts
Parkinson, D	131 Walnut Ave., W'verh'm,	Goostrey
	Northwich	
Street, G. (Mrs.)	3 Saltersford Corner,	Church Hulme, Cranage,
	Holmes Chapel	Tetton
Clayton, A. (Mrs.)	28 Lawton Rd., Alsager	Church Lawton, Odd Rode
Smith, E. G.	15 Centre Court, Alsager	Betchton, Hassal,
	Tel. Alsager 628	Smallwood
Spencer, M	2 Elm Drive, Macclesfield	Hulme Walfield, Somerford,
		Booths, Swettenham,
		Twemlow
Jacks, L.	Abbey Croft, Abbey Road,	Arclid, Bradwall, Elton,
	Sandbach. Tel. 309.	Brereton
Corbishley, M.	12 West Street, Congleton.	Moreton-cum-Alcumlow,
	Tel. Congleton 169	Newbold Astbury.

Home Nursing

The District Nurses serving our area act in double capacity as Home Nurses and Midwives. They are as follows—

V. Spencer, Black and White Cottages, Astbury.	Congleton 451.
G. Magee, Booth Bank Road, Goostrey.	Holmes Chapel, 3244.
L. B. Blunsum, 19 West Way, Holmes Chapel.	Holmes Chapel 2226.
H. M. Austin, 2 Drenfell Road, Scholar Green.	Kidsgrove 466.
N. W. Evans, 5 Elworth Street, Sandbach.	Sandbach 256.

The work of the Home Nurse in assisting the General Practitioners in the treatment of patients in their homes provides a vital service and a great number of cases are dealt with, and special equipment when necessary is provided.

In addition, many confinements are carried out at home as well as in hospital.

BIRTHS, 1955

Hospital		Home		Private Nursing Home	
Live	Still	Live	Still	Live	Still
104	1	72	—	5	—
(105)	(2)	(80)	(4)	(3)	(1)

No finer tribute could be paid to the work of the Home Nurse than by recording that no single complaint was received during the year.

Vaccination and Immunisation

It is difficult to estimate accurately the percentage of children under the age of 15 who have been immunised against Diphtheria. It would appear that the figure is probably somewhere between 60% and 65%. If this is so, it is not nearly high enough, as there is definite evidence to show that where the incidence of immunisation is low, outbreaks of Diphtheria recur. The difficulty we are up against is that, to the young mother, Diphtheria is no longer a frightening disease, and if it was not for the fact that we combine Diphtheria immunisation with that of Whooping Cough, I fear that the figures would be much lower.

The value of the Whooping Cough Immunisation is now becoming apparent. I have been able to record cases of children who have been immunised, in contact with their older brothers and sisters who have not been protected and have contracted Whooping Cough, remaining free of the disease. There is also evidence to show that if Whooping Cough is contracted in an immunised child, it is a very mild disease. It is important to immunise against Whooping Cough in the early months of a child's life, for the mortality in this disease is greatest in the first year of life.

Not nearly enough children have been offered for vaccination against Smallpox. Although this dread disease rarely occurs in this country, it is always likely to break out. Parents do not realise that to vaccinate a young baby of three months is a relatively harmless procedure. If, however, an older child or an adult has to be done, the reaction and complications can be quite serious. Primary vaccination in infancy renders a secondary vaccination later in life relatively free of these complications.

STATISTICS

Diphtheria Immunisation

Pre-school children	...	...	5	(25)
School children	...	...	10	(17)
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			15	(42)
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections	...		34	(51)

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Pre-school children	...	...	11	(14)
School children	...	...	2	(10)
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			13	(24)
			<hr/>	<hr/>

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria & Whooping Cough)

Pre-school children	...	...	110	(119)
School children	...	...	15	(21)
			<hr/> 125	<hr/> (140)

Primary Vaccination

Pre-school	...	...	...	79	(55)
School children	...	...	...	2	(3)
Adults	...	...	...	2	(18)
				<hr/> 83	<hr/> (76)

Re-Vaccination

Pre-school children	...	...	...	—	(—)
School children	...	...	...	3	(1)
Adults	...	...	...	5	(4)
				<hr/> 8	<hr/> (5)

Public Health Laboratory Service

The regular routine sampling of water supplies is carried out by the Water Board. The Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester, is available for Bacteriological analysis of water, milk, ice-cream and food, as, and when we require it. They also undertake to carry out examination of all swabs submitted. This is a free service and I wish to record the ever-ready help and assistance I have received from Dr. W. Parker, the Director of this Laboratory, particularly in connection with food poisoning and infectious disease cases.

Ambulance and Sitting Case Car Transport

The efficiency of a service may be judged by the relative freedom from complaint. If this is so we may be satisfied with the way our service is operated. As pointed out in previous reports, the ambulance transport is based at Congleton, Sandbach and Alsager, and arrangements are made with neighbouring authorities should it be necessary to call them in cases of emergency, when our vehicles are not available.

Domestic Help Service

There is no doubt that the work done by this service is invaluable. The difficulty in our Rural District is obtaining suitable Home Helps. More cases could be attended to if suitable Home Helps could be found.

STATISTICS

Home Helps employed during 1955—

Full time	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	11	(5)
Casual	...	...	...	4	(7)
				<hr/> 15	<hr/> (12)

Home Helps employed at 31st December, 1955—

Full time	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	8	(6)
Casual	...	...	...	1	(1)
				<hr/> 9	<hr/> (7)

Applications received during 1955—

Confinement	...	...	...	2	(6)
Sickness	...	...	...	4	(3)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and infirm	...	...	...	7	(2)
				<hr/> 13	<hr/> (11)

Cases attended during 1955—

Confinement	...	...	...	—	(4)
Sickness	...	...	...	5	(2)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	(—)
Aged and infirm	...	...	...	7	(9)
				<hr/> 13	<hr/> (15)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

I am indebted to Mr. Delwyn G. Davies, Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board for the following information.—

The quality of water Supplied in the Congleton Rural District District during the year has been satisfactory.

Extensive waste inspections in the Mow Cop area have been carried out with resulting improvements in consumption figures. The Mow Cop Pumping Station supplied 113 million gallons. compared with 120 million gallons in 1954. Reduced quantities have been supplied from the Delamere Area.

The important 9 inch inter-connecting main between the Bearstone and Mow Cop systems has been utilised continuously during the year, and 23 million gallons have been supplied into the area from this source.

The Bulk supply taken from the Congleton Borough was increased to 65 million gallons, and during the breakdown of the 12 inch main supplying Cranage and Holmes Chapel the increased draw from the Borough amounted to 220,000 gallons per day.

The actual quantity of water supplied to the Rural District in 1955 was 325 million gallons, of which 163 million gallons were used for domestic purposes. From the information available the population supplied from the water mains is 13,000 giving an average overall daily consumption of 68.5 gallons per head for all purposes and 34.2 gallons per head for domestic use.

Sewerage

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. R. O. Birtwistle, for the reports on Sewerage and Housing.—

During the year under review, the Council's Sewage Disposal Works have been satisfactorily maintained, having regard for the prevailing circumstances in individual cases.

The Scholar Green storm relief sewer was completed and has proved satisfactory in that the flooding from the manholes in Station Road does not now occur.

In regard to Goostrey, it had been hoped to commence the construction of the remainder of the scheme, a first portion having been constructed in 1954, sufficient only for the Booth Bed Lane Housing Scheme. Financial restrictions, however, prevented further work, but it is anticipated that the commencement will be delayed no longer than is absolutely necessary.

In the case of Holmes Chapel, the protracted negotiations regarding trade wastes are nearing a conclusion. The Disposal Works extensions have been prepared in outline for some time, but finality cannot be reached until the trade waste problems are satisfactorily resolved.

Housing

By the end of the year 1955 the number of houses built since 1939 was 727 making a grand total of 898 including the 171 erected prior to the war. In addition there were 72 under construction at the time.

One problem facing a rural district is the need to build houses in almost every parish on so many sites. In the Rural District the 727 houses have been built on 45 sites dotted here and there, the numbers per site varying from 2 to some 200. Additional sites are still undeveloped. It is thought that the Council's Programme does not compare unfavourably with those of other similar districts.

Trends seem to indicate that the Council's Housing Programme will, within measurable time be completed in so far as the two and three bedroomed houses are concerned but with the increasing number of older people it is doubtful if the demand for bungalows can be met for some time.

The notes contained in the 1954 Report mentioned a new bungalow design—this is “L” shaped and has been found to be quite adaptable; it can be repeated as a terrace, or grouped to form a square. Proposals at Lawton Gate and Meadow Bank are looked forward to with interest, for on these sites the unit bungalow will be built, grouped to form a square on the former site and terraced on the latter.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Tuberculosis

Seven new cases were notified during 1955, four Pulmonary and three Non-Pulmonary. The number of people on the register at the 31st December, 1955 is shown in the table below.—

	Up to 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary ...	—	1	—	2	3	5	1	4	4	20
Female Pulmonary ...	—	—	1	4	6	3	—	1	—	15
Male Non-Pulmonary ...	—	—	5	5	2	—	—	1	—	13
Female Non-Pulmonary	—	—	5	5	4	3	4	—	—	21

The seriousness of Tuberculosis is not fully realised by the General Public. It fails to make the headlines to the same extent as Poliomyelitis. This disease is most prevalent in the age group 15-25. When the disease occurs in a young married family with children, affecting as a rule, one or other of the parents, the effect in the home is most serious. Tuberculosis is a disease which takes a long time to cure and often means the patient going away to a Sanatorium.

It has been found that the vaccination against Tuberculosis with B.C.G., affords considerable immunity and protection. The scheme has now been under-way for two years, where vaccination against Tuberculosis to school children between 13 and 14 is offered. The response is good, although it could be better. As the years go on, it is hoped by this vaccination scheme to cut down considerably the incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. In addition to school children, contacts of cases are always X-rayed and where necessary, are vaccinated.

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1955 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1946.

NOTIFICATIONS, 1946 to 1955

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1955 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1946.

	1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year									1											
1- 5																	1	1		1
5-15		2		2				2										1		1
15-25	1			1	1						1		1							
25-35							2		1		1		2				1			
35-45			1	1	1		1		1											
45-55	1						1													
55-65									3		1				1					
65 and over	1										1		1							
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5		1											1				1			
5-15		1										2	1	1						
15-25	2		2				1	1	1		3	1			2				2	
25-35	1		1									1		1	1				1	1
35-45	1	1					1								1					
45-55					1		1													
55-65																			1	
65 and over			1																	
Total	7	5	5	4	3	0	7	3	6	1	7	4	4	4	3	2	3	2	4	3

DEATHS, 1946 to 1955

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955										
	P NP	P NP	P NP	P NP	P NP	dN d	P NP	P NP	P NP	P NP										
MALE																				
Up to 1 year					1															
1- 5									1											
5-15																				
15-25				1																
25-35			1	1																
35-45				1		1														
45-55					1				1											
55-65		1			1			1												
65 and over	1		1				1													
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15								1												
15-25			1																	
25-35		1								1										
35-45						1				1										
45-55																				
55-65																				
65 and over		1																		
Total	1	0	2	2	1	1	3	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	2	0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1955

DISEASE	AGE DISTRIBUTION														Total Cases over notified	cases admttd to hosp	Total deaths
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 &					
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	1	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	—	
Whooping Cough		—	2	1	4	2	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	15	1	—	
Measles	2	4	9	10	12	75	13	—	2	—	—	127	2	—	
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	2	3	8	1	5	
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	
Food Poisoning	...	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	1	—	
Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	

The following sections of this report cover the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department and have been compiled by Mr. P. Kirkham, the Sanitary Inspector.—

Cleansing

1955 was a memorable year, as in April, the Council's Central Depot at Arclid was opened. It is a new, brick building, housed pleasantly in waste woodland. It houses comfortably the six vehicles employed in the cleansing service and contains an office, work-shop, inspection pit, store-room and sanitary conveniences for the staff. The building is centrally heated. The Council's own petrol installation has been fixed. Greasing and washing down equipment have been provided and all vehicles receive a regular weekly servicing by our own personnel. A clean, smart and road-worthy vehicle is considered to contribute to the efficiency of the scavenging service and encourages the workmen in a sense of pride and responsibility. One foreman driver with a reasonable mechanical aptitude, allied with a sound sense of responsibility, supervises all routine maintenance and carries out many minor repairs. It is intended to build up gradually the degree of repairs carried out by our own staff.

The end of the year saw the Council receive delivery of a new Karrier-Gamecock Refuse Collector and enabled disposal of one old ex-W.D. vehicle. The fleet is now as follows—

Number	Make	Duty	Mileage	Petrol	Miles P/G
PMB 601	Karrier	Refuse collection	8992	1464	6.1
PMB 602	Karrier	Refuse collection	6771	1299	5.2
PMB 603	Karrier	Refuse collection	7166	922	7.7
WMA 363	Karrier	Refuse collection	570	109	5.2
PMB 604	Karrier	Nightsoil & Septic Tanks	11567	1836	6.3
KMA 128	Fordson	Spare vehicle—Refuse or nightsoil	6696	1136	5.8
			41762	6766	6.17

The four Karrier-Gamecock vehicles, each with a driver and two men, collect house refuse throughout the District. Collection is weekly, over by far the greater portion of the area. Disposal is by tipping at several points. Crickets again have proved a source of nuisance at two of the main tips. No serious infestation of rats occurred and treatment by the Council's Operator is carried out regularly.

The collection of waste paper and cardboard for salvage has been increased since moving to the Central Depot and a salvage compartment is being fitted to each of the Gamecocks. No bonus is paid to the workmen but overtime is allowed on a limited scale for baling.

The Cesspool Emptier is employed for 3 to 3½ days weekly, emptying pail closets. 1½ to 2 days weekly are spent servicing the 44 Council sewage installations and, on payment, private septic tanks and industrial installations. The following are details of the work so executed.—

187 loads were removed from	60 Council installations.
120 loads were removed from	14 Industrial installations.
168 loads were removed from	87 Private Septic Tanks.

475 loads from

161 installations.

The Council supply all scavenging workmen with two suits of overalls annually and a suit of waterproofs every three years. A washing cream dispenser has been fitted inside each vehicle and it has been most encouraging to find how much this has been used by the employees. The men on the Cesspool Emptier are also supplied with suitable protective gloves.

Composting of night-soil has been carried out at Odd Rode Sewage Works and Arclid Depot. The night-soil is composted with straw in lagoons, is turned twice and stands for at least three months before disposal. The resulting compost is of excellent quality and it is hoped that sales will be sufficient to warrant increasing this form of disposal.

The service generally throughout the year operated most satisfactorily and with few complaints.

Food and Food Premises

64 visits were made to food premises. This duty will be considerably increased with the implementation of the new Food Regulations. There are approximately 135 food premises of various types throughout the District.

Following representation to the owners, an unsatisfactory snack-bar was repaired and renovated to comply with Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

18 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream and one for manufacture by the Complete Cold Mix.

There are 7 other premises registered under Section 14 (1) (b).

201 tins of food were surrendered as unfit for food and were tipped and buried.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

Two private slaughterhouses operate and kill only for sale in the shops attached.

188 visits have been made to them during the year. The following table gives details of the work carried out—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or part

	Cattle Ex. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	
Number killed	...	103	74	—	348	37
Number inspected	...	103	74	—	348	37
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	18	16	—	6	4
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	...	17.4	21.6	—	1.07	10.8
<i>Tuberculosis—</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	...	1	2	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	15	18	—	—	—
Percentages affected with Tuberculosis	...	6.6	11.1	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>	...	—	—	—	—	—

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

5 licences were issued to persons residing in the area.

Milk Regulations, 1949

The following table shows the number of licences issued during the year.—

Dealers

Pasteurised	...	...	...	8
Sterilised	...	...	...	6
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	7

Supplementary

Pasteurised	...	...	...	8
Sterilised	...	...	...	5
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	8

The necessary steps are being taken by the Ministry to declare the area a “specified” one for the sale of designated milks only.

Two distributors were required to show their names and addresses on delivery vans in accordance with the regulations.

11 samples of milk taken by the County Council were found to be tuberculous and the necessary steps were taken to ensure the milk was heat treated before sale.

Factories and Work Places

The following tables give information as to the number of registered factories and inspections made.—

INSPECTIONS

	No. on register	No. of inspections	No. of written notices
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority ...	8	2	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	41	12	1
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—
	49	14	1

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Found	Remedied
Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective ...	1	1

Outworkers

Wearing apparel (Making etc., cleaning, washing) ...	3
--	---

Sanitary Inspections

Summary of Visits

Animals, keeping of	...	...	...	...	...	6
Conversions	...	...	...	...	...	16
Closet pails	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drainage, including septic tanks, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	252
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	14
Factories, with Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	12
Factories, without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	2
Factories, outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food Premises, General	...	...	...	...	...	13
Food Premises, Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food Premises, Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	9
Food Premises, Cafe and Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	17
Food Premises, Dairy, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	10
Food Premises, Ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food Premises, Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food Premises, Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	188
Food Premises, unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food Premises, Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	2
Housing, General	...	...	...	...	...	657
Housing, Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	8
Housing, Council House applications	...	...	...	...	...	63
Housing, Housing Act, 1949, Grants	...	...	...	...	...	255
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	19
Infectious disease, Food poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	7
Infectious disease, Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	9
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	...	12
Insect Pests, Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	7
Nuisance, General	...	...	...	...	...	35
Nuisance, Housing	...	...	...	...	...	37
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	43
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	59
Scavenging, Tips	...	...	...	...	...	44
Scavenging, Teams at work	...	...	...	...	...	61
Scavenging, Garages	...	...	...	...	...	171
Slaughterman's Licences	...	...	...	...	...	5
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	21
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	38
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	63
Total						2186

Number of complaints received	83
Number of Informal Notices Served	131
Number of Informal Notices Complied with	120
Number of Statutory Notices Served	13
Number of Statutory Notices Complied with by owners	2
Number of Statutory Notices Complied with by Local Authority in default of owners	11

Conversions

The conversions of closets at Woodcock Wells School from Conservancy to water carriage was completed during the year, the Council agreeing to contribute an amount towards the cost in accordance with Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Following extensions of the sewers at Mount Pleasant and Mow Cop, three properties carried out conversions in accordance with notices served and grants were paid.

Many properties are converting to water closets in the absence of a public sewer and providing their own sewage installations. 15 such houses were converted at the time of carrying out Improvement Grant works.

Water Supply

23 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from private wells, springs, etc. 9 samples were found to be satisfactory. Of the 14 unsatisfactory ones, 7 were advised to boil the water, 2 had the wells cleansed, 2 made arrangements for connection to the mains supply and 3 houses were subsequently closed.

Moveable Dwellings

The Council approved the issue of a licence for a camping site limited to twelve caravans at Goostrey. In addition, 2 licences were issued for temporary occupation of caravans on sites where the owners were proposing to build their own houses.

Rodent Control

The Council employ a full time Rodent Operator and have a small van for the work. Treatments are carried out at private houses free of charge. Industrial premises and farms are treated on payment, mostly by annual contract.

	<i>Number treated</i>	<i>Number of visits</i>
Dwelling Houses	37	136
Local Authority premises (Tips and Sewage Works) ...	17	547
Industrial and Trade premises	19	297
Farms	56	961
	—	—
Total	129	1941
	—	—

A systematic survey of farms throughout the area has been started and it is hoped to ensure that every farm is visited at least once every three years.

The Council's sewers were test baited with a negative result.

The Council are Members of a Workable Area Committee which has been amalgamated with an adjoining one, and re-named The East Cheshire Group.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Acts, 1928-1936

Licensed premises are visited periodically and the following particulars are given of the number of such premises in the area—

Number of Licenses renewed in 1955 ...	58
Number of New Licenses issued ...	3

Some confusion arises with applicants for new licences owing to there being no uniform requirements either nationally or regionally as to the necessity for brick chambers, concrete over the site, air pressure test, etc. Tanks are always required to be underground in sand, but a brick chamber is only requested in built-up areas or where streams or drains are adjacent. A 5 lb. air pressure test is imposed.

Housing

The year has seen by far the greatest proportion of my time spent on housing and has been a year largely devoted to preparations for a determined effort to rid the area of unfit houses.

The Housing Survey was completed by July, 1955, and a total of 639 houses were inspected. It was agreed that 231 houses in the district were unfit for human habitation and not capable of being made fit at reasonable cost, and that they should be dealt with in five years. This number is constantly being revised by the addition of further houses, owing to subsequent deterioration, or by the deletion of houses owing to their being made fit. Since that time 31 families have been re-housed by the Council, 11 have themselves found other accommodation, 2 houses have been made fit and 4 houses have been demolished.

237 houses were considered as unfit at 31st December, 1955, and of this number, 61 are empty houses. 12 of these vacant properties have Closing Orders under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1933 in force. 34 have undertakings by the owners not to use for human habitation until such time as they have been made fit, and 6 have Demolition Orders operative. The replacement figure is now in the region of 143 and the Council will probably give this re-housing priority in the coming year.

It was noted that very few of the unfit houses had families with children and a large proportion were occupied by elderly people.

The following statistics as to the unfit houses inspected during the survey are given.—

Total number of unfit houses ... 231

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage of 231</i>
Houses occupied by one person only ...	53	23
Houses occupied by three persons or under	155	69
Houses occupied by four persons and over	40	17
No children under ten years of age ...	154	66
Houses Vacant	36	15
Inclusive rent less than 10/-	173	75
Pail Closets	124	53
Pit type Closets	48	21
No piped water within the house	29	12
No proper sink	40	17
No piped hot water	208	90
No fixed bath	215	93
No proper food store	145	63
Occupied by owner	19	8

Certificates of Disrepair

6 application for Certificates of Disrepair were received and granted. 1 application for revocation was made and approved.

Statutory Repair Notices

5 Statutory Notices were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936. 1 Notice was served under Section 92 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requiring a farm house to be repaired and a Nuisance Order was obtained before the works were carried out.

Improvement Grants

46 applications were approved for Improvement Grants, 15 from Owner-Occupiers, 12 from Landlords and 19 from a large estate owner. Total grants approved amounted to £11,089.

